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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 11 November 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's repeated attacks on southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the local inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place during September 1996.

3 September 1996

At 1250 hours Israeli military aircraft made high-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

6 September 1996

At 1045 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew Beirut and were fired on by ground-based anti-aircraft batteries belonging to Lebanese Army units stationed in the Ba'abda area.

At 1200 hours, while elements of the Lahad militia were raking woodland areas with machine-gun fire, fires broke out in thickets close to dwellings in outlying areas of Haydab and Qaytulah in the Jazzin district.

9 September 1996

At 1100 hours Israeli military aircraft made high-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

11 September 1996

At 2130 hours outlying areas of Qulay'ah in the western Bekaa came under artillery fire from Israeli and Lahad militia positions at Tallat al-Ahmadiyah. No casualties were reported.

At 2130 hours elements of the Lahad militia captured Master Sergeant Antoine Makhwal of the Security Forces' Bint Jubayl post and took him to Khiam prison.

12 September 1996

At 0930 hours outlying areas of Frun and areas along the Litani river came under artillery bombardment.

At 1430 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew the town and camps at Sidon, breaking the sound barrier.

At 1435 hours two Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew Baalbek, breaking the sound barrier.

13 September 1996

At 0800 hours outlying areas of Jumayjimah, Safad al-Battikh, Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Majdal Silm, Qabrikha and Tulin came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 0945 hours Israeli helicopters overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitude and fired two air-to-surface missiles and several bursts of machine-gun fire at targets along the Zahrani river and in outlying areas of Arabsalim, Habbush and Kafr Rumman.

Between 1800 and 1830 hours outlying areas of Jumayjimah, Majdal Silm, Tulin and Qabrikha came under Israeli artillery bombardment. No casualties were reported.

At 1330 hours a cluster bomb left by the Israeli incursion exploded near Safi al-Din Muhammad Ayyub, 26, causing injuries all over his body. He had been tending livestock in the Sahl al-Manarah locality in the eastern part of the western Bekaa district.

16 September 1996

At 1620 and 2330 hours Israeli military aircraft made high-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

18 September 1996

At 1200 hours Israeli aircraft made high-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

At 1000 hours outlying areas of Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba' and Jarju' came under Israeli artillery bombardment. At the same time, Israeli military aircraft and helicopters made numerous low-altitude overflights of the region.

At 1130 hours Israeli patrols accompanied by a military aircraft proceeded to comb the thickets between Maydun and Ayn al-Tinah as well as Tumat Niha and the Birkat Jabbur and Abu Rashid localities in the outlying areas to the west of Qilya. From about 1300 hours until 1400 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew the western Bekaa, dropping heat balloons.

At 1240 hours Israeli aircraft overflew the town and camps at Sidon.

At 1255 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew Baalbek.

At 1345 hours Israeli military aircraft made two consecutive attacks on outlying areas of Ayn Bu Siwar. The artillery bombardment continued, targeting outlying areas of towns in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area and areas along the Zahrani river. Two civilians were injured. A fierce fire also broke out in the environs of Jba' and destroyed a large stand of pine trees. It could not be extinguished owing to the security situation.

At 1530 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddathah and Bra'shit came under Israeli artillery bombardment. At the same time, Israeli military aircraft overflew the region.

20 September 1996

At 1310 hours Israeli aircraft made high-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon.

Between 1500 and 1630 hours elements of the Lahad militia raked the Anan area in the Jazzin district with fire using all types of weapons.

21 September 1996

At 1215 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba', Mlita, Jabal Safi and Wadi Kafrah came under Israeli artillery bombardment. Then, at 1420 hours, Israeli military aircraft attacked the Mlita hills and Jabal Safi, continuing the bombardment until 1600 hours. No casualties were reported.

22 September 1996

At 0230 hours the Mlita hills, Jabal Safi and outlying areas of Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju', Arabsalim and Humin al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery bombardment. At the same time, Israeli helicopters raked the Mlita hills and Jabal Safi with machine-gun fire. The operation ended at 0630 hours. Israeli forces expelled Ali Hassan Qarut and his family, of Mays al-Jabal in the Marj Uyun area, from the border-strip area.

23 September 1996

Between 1300 and 1500 hours the Ayn al-Tinah hills and Mashgharah, in the western Bekaa district, came under sporadic artillery bombardment from Israeli and Lahad militia positions.

24 September 1996

At 0730 hours the Mlita hills, Jabal Safi and Luwayzah, in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, came under Israeli artillery and rocket bombardment.

At 1030 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim and Jarju' and areas along the Zahrani river came under artillery bombardment from Israeli positions inside the border strip. The bombardment of Jarju' and its environs was particularly severe and started a fierce fire that civil defence personnel were unable to extinguish in view of the security situation. The bombardment stopped at 1520 hours.

At 1500 hours Israeli aircraft made high-altitude overflights of the town and camps at Sidon, breaking the sound barrier.

25 September 1996

At 1100 hours Israeli military aircraft made low-altitude overflights of the Nabatiyah area, breaking the sound barrier.

At 1110 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew the town and camps at Sidon, breaking the sound barrier at 1500 hours. The overflights continued until 2000 hours.

Between 1230 ad 1300 hours Israeli military aircraft made low-altitude overflights of the Maydun and Ayn al-Tinah areas.

At 1630 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haddathah and Haris came under Israeli bombardment.

26 September 1996

At 1000 hours Israeli military aircraft made low-altitude overflights of Sidon, returning at 1520 hours to make high-altitude overflights.

At 1040 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju', Luwayzah, the Mlita hills, Jabal Safi, and Ayn Bu Siwar came under Israeli artillery bombardment. At the same time Israeli military aircraft made overflights at various intervals. The bombardment stopped at 1800 hours.

27 September 1996

Between 1130 and 1300 hours the Ayn al-Tinah hills in the western Bekaa came under sporadic artillery bombardment from Israeli and Lahad militia positions.

28 September 1996

Between 1745 and 1815 hours Israeli helicopters made overflights of the Nabatiyah area, carrying out mock attacks and dropping heat balloons.

29 September 1996

At 1100 hours Israeli aircraft overflew the Sidon area, breaking the sound barrier.

At 1745 hours outlying areas of Majdal Silm, Tulin, Qabrikha, Sawwanah and Shaqra came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 1800 hours the Mlita hills, Jabal Safi, outlying areas of Jarju', Arabsalim, and Ayn Bu Siwar and areas near Nab' al-Tasah came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

Israel's persistent refusal to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and its continued occupation of Lebanese territory are perpetuating the cycle of violence.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation, the fresh attacks and the arbitrary practices against the Lebanese population, which have caused further injuries and further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative